



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration

January 10, 2003

Dear Colleague:

The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (the Bioterrorism Act or the Act) requires the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to take specific actions to protect the nation's food supply against terrorist threats. In particular, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as the regulatory arm of DHHS responsible for food safety, is continuing its efforts to develop four regulations and several guidance documents to protect the public health.

FDA is making significant strides in developing these four regulations. One critical step in developing the four regulations is the publication of the proposed rules for public comment. Information materials about FDA's plans concerning the proposed rules are included in this packet. They are:

- An overview Fact Sheet on the food safety and security measures required by the Act
- A copy of the Federal Register Notice announcing the upcoming satellite downlink public meeting on two of the proposed rules

I encourage you to participate in the upcoming satellite downlink public meeting, if at all possible, because it will help you in preparing comments on the proposed rules. The satellite downlink format will permit the largest possible audience. Transcripts and tapes of the meeting will also be available for review.

I also urge you to consult the new FDA web page on the Bioterrorism Act to gain easy access to current information about the satellite downlink meeting including contact information. You can also access information about the Act itself, the provisions related to FDA, and the Agency's activities to implement those provisions. The new page is located at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/bioterrorism/bioact.html>.

If you have any questions please contact me at 301-827-3330.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda Arey Skladany", is written over a horizontal line.

Linda Arey Skladany, Esq.
Associate Commissioner for External Relations

Enclosure